MDPCP COVID-19 Update Webinars:

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated 11/19/2021

Vaccines

Is it possible to provide COVID-19 vaccines without EHR reporting?

- MDH strongly recommends reporting vaccination data to ImmuNet through an EHR. A direct connection between your EHR and ImmuNet is the most efficient, cost-saving and reliable method to ensure your vaccination data is reported in compliance with Maryland law.

  If you do not have an EHR, you can set up a daily CSV file reporting mechanism. Contact mdh.mdimmunet@maryland.gov to begin this process.

What are the recommendations for providing COVID-19 vaccines to individuals recently ill with COVID-19?

- The CDC recommends that individuals who have been ill with COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19, should wait until symptoms subside and self isolate as outlined in this criteria. The CDC *does recommend* the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals who have already had COVID-19, as evidence is emerging that shows that people get better protection from being fully vaccinated as compared to having had COVID-19.

Which practices are providing vaccines for 5-11-year-olds and 12-17-year-olds?

- The Coronavirus page on the MDH website includes a tool to find sites providing COVID-19 vaccines. This tool allows the user to filter by age bracket including an option to filter for sites administering vaccines for 5-11-year-olds and 12-17-year-olds.

Point-of-Care Testing

Is the state supplying point-of-care COVID-19 tests?

- Yes, you can request free point-of-care COVID-19 tests through the state. To submit your request, please fill out this google form and a staff member will follow up with you about your request.

What license(s) is required for practices to provide point-of-care COVID-19 tests?

- In order to provide point-of-care COVID-19 tests, the practice needs to have a Maryland laboratory license and a CLIA certificate. Practices will need to submit a change form to add the COVID antigen test. Additional information can be found in the MDH Point-of-Care testing toolkit here.

COVID-19 Data

What is the rate of breakthrough infections?

- Fully vaccinated individuals are less likely to contract COVID-19 and less likely to face adverse side effects from COVID-19 compared to those that are unvaccinated. However, vaccinated individuals can still contract COVID-19. Rates of breakthrough infections differ depending on geographic region. Maryland data is updated on this page under the header "Post Vaccination Infections."

  The CDC also regularly monitors and updates data on infections by vaccination status here and hospitalization data here. As of August, this data from the CDC indicates that unvaccinated individuals are 6.1 times more likely to become infected with COVID-19 and 11.3 times more likely to die from COVID-19.

Adolescents

What vaccines are available for adolescents between the ages of 12-17?

- Currently, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only available vaccine for adolescents in this age bracket.

What vaccines are available for adolescents between the ages of 5-11?

- As of 11/2, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only available vaccine for this pediatric population. Note that the Pfizer 5-11 vaccine is a different product than the existing Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Additional information regarding pediatrics and COVID-19 vaccines can be found on the CDC website here.

COVID-19 Therapeutics

Which populations are eligible for monoclonal antibody treatment?

- This updated FDA notice regarding monoclonal antibody treatment outlines that the authorization of this treatment is recommended for adult and pediatric patients that are 12 years and older that have tested positive for mild-to-moderate SARS-CoV-2 and have the potential to progress to severe SARS-CoV-2 or risk of hospitalization. Additional information regarding monoclonal antibody treatment can be found on the HHS website under "Product-specific Information."

Monoclonal antibody treatment is now authorized for post-exposure prophylaxis. Additional information regarding eligibility for this treatment can be found on the HHS website here.

Where is monoclonal antibody treatment currently being offered?

- Monoclonal antibody treatment is being offered at the locations listed on the Maryland Department of Health FAQs page. Additional locations can be found on the HHS website.

  Additional information regarding monoclonal antibodies can be found in this Provider Toolkit. This toolkit includes information regarding locations for treatment, provider resources, referral information, and patient resources.

Can vaccinated individuals receive monoclonal antibody treatment?

- Yes, vaccinated individuals that fall into an eligible category for monoclonal antibody treatment can receive the treatment and could benefit greatly from that treatment. This can be a particularly beneficial treatment option for eligible individuals that are immunocompromised. Additional guidance on eligibility for monoclonal antibody treatment can be found here.

How soon can an individual be vaccinated for COVID-19 after receiving monoclonal antibody treatment?

- Individuals that have received monoclonal antibody treatment should wait 90 days before obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals that obtain monoclonal antibody treatment for post-exposure prophylaxis purposes can obtain a COVID-19 vaccine 30 days after receiving treatment. Additional guidance and information can be found on the CDC website.

What ages will be eligible for the antiviral treatments?

- Initial studies for Molnupiravir and Paxlovid were conducted in adult populations. Due to the studied populations, if the FDA authorizes an EUA for either of these antivirals, it will likely apply to adult populations and will not apply to pediatric populations.

Third Doses for Immunocompromised and Booster Doses

Who is eligible for a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

- As of 11/19, the FDA has expanded the Pfizer and Moderna EUA to authorize a booster dose for all individuals 18+, six months after their second dose.
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All individuals that originally received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for a booster dose, two months after their first J&J dose.

Further information on booster guidance can be found in this COVID-19 Vaccine Guide for PCPs.

When should eligible populations obtain a booster dose?

- Eligible populations that have previously obtained Pfizer or Moderna are eligible for booster doses six months after completing the second dose. Individuals that have previously obtained J&J are eligible for a booster dose two months after obtaining the initial injection.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine be provided at the same time as the seasonal flu vaccine?

- Yes. The CDC has recently updated its recommendations and has determined that it is okay to provide a COVID-19 vaccine and the seasonal flu vaccine at the same visit for patients.

Is there a difference in doses between the third dose vaccine for immunocompromised individuals and the booster dose for other individuals?

- The dosage and vaccine are the same for both injections for the Pfizer vaccine.

  For the Moderna vaccine, the booster dosage is a half dose, and the third dose for immunocompromised individuals is a full dose.

When should the COVID-19 third dose vaccinations be provided to immunocompromised patients?

- At this time, the FDA and CDC are advising that immunocompromised individuals be provided with a 3rd COVID-19 vaccine dose as soon as possible. See this document for guidance on implementing 3rd doses for this population.

  HHS has released a joint statement that announced plans for both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to allow for the use of an additional dose in all individuals beginning September 20th. They advised that additional doses will be recommended for individuals eight months after their second dose. At this time, HHS has advised that the FDA will review available data and conduct an independent evaluation before moving forward. We will keep practices informed with any new developments and information regarding booster vaccinations and processes.

  On 9/8, Governor Hogan announced the immediate authorization of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses for individuals that are 65 and older in congregate care facilities in Maryland. This authorization applies to all nursing homes, assisted living facilities, residential drug treatment centers, and developmentally disabled group homes. More

information including a recording of the press conference and the slide deck can be found here.